

09/942,887

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the attention accorded to the instant application. Applicants respectfully submit that the newly submitted claims include the limitations of previously allowed claims 64, 77 and 81, thus should be allowable. Claim 53 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 66, and new claim 107 includes the limitations of claims 77 and 81. New claims 108-138 depend from claim 107 similar to certain of claims 54-91.

Election/Restriction

Applicants confirm election of invention I, claims 53-91, and accordingly claims 92-104 have been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications to prosecute these claims.

Claim Objections

Applicants have removed the second occurrence of claims 58-59 presented in the Amendment of July 14, 2003. These claims are presented as new claims 105-106.

Specification

The specification has been amended to correct the unclear recitation per the Examiner's request. Note that the value $n \geq 2$ is presented in original claim 20, therefore does not constitute new matter.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

Claims 73, 77 and 81 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112.

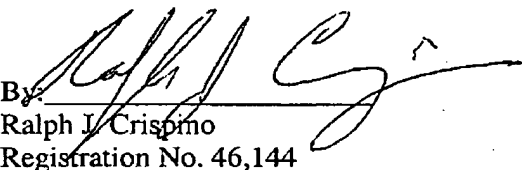
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Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102/103

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 USC §102/103 should be withdrawn, since the claims have been amended to include the limitations of allowable claims 66, 77 and 81.

The amendments herein do not introduce any new matter. It is believed that the claims herein should be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Ralph J. Crispino
Registration No. 46,144

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REVEO, INC.
85 Executive Boulevard
Elmsford, New York 10523
Telephone (914) 798-7270
Facsimile: (914) 345-9558